

**TESTIMONY OF
Greenwich Hospital
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday, February 22, 2013

***HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30,
2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE***

On behalf of Greenwich Hospital, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **opposition** to ***HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.***

At Greenwich Hospital, Service excellence is a top priority. The hospital is a recipient of the prestigious Summit Award which recognizes facilities for maintaining superior patient satisfaction. Together with our nearly 2000 employees, Greenwich Hospital strives to provide sensitive, high-quality health care to all patients and offers a wide range of medical, surgical, diagnostic and wellness programs.

The budget proposed by Governor Malloy includes devastating cuts that will impact our patients, community and employees. Greenwich Hospital was the most severely impacted hospital in the state when a tax was adopted two years ago to obtain federal dollars that were used to help fill the budget gap. While the State retained the federal matching dollars, the tax revenue was redistributed to hospitals. Last year, Greenwich Hospital paid \$12.1 million in taxes and received \$4.5 million through the redistribution resulting in a net loss of \$7.6 million.

We cannot continue to absorb the deep cuts that the administration keeps leveling at us. In December, the deficit mitigation plan that was adopted resulted in a nearly \$1 million cut to Greenwich Hospital. The proposal before you seeks to cut \$6 million from our hospital over the next two years. We will have no choice but to evaluate services and programs to see where adjustments can be made. In the end, our decisions will impact people and programs. While we will make every effort to avert layoffs, jobs will inevitably be affected since we are about people providing care to people, and our single largest cost is staffing. If this budget is adopted, we will have to make some very tough decisions

To further complicate matters, as you know, we are in the midst of major changes in healthcare. We are preparing for significant cuts in federal funding and recognize that the reductions could be further inflated if issues are not resolved by Congress before the March 1, 2013 deadline. As we prepare for the full implementation of health care reform where the demand for health care services is projected to substantially increase, we must remain financially viable to meet this demand. We are committed to continuing our focus on quality and patient safety initiatives, and efforts that will improve care.

Our patients, employees and community rely on us and today, we are relying on you. While it is clear that the State does not have the resources to assist us with meeting the projected increase in demand for health care services, we urge you to oppose budget cuts during this critical time.

Thank you, in advance, for considering our patients, community and staff in your deliberations.